

mined. Usually the earth is an infantryman's friend. He digs a fighting hole—the deeper he digs, the safer he is. But with mines, the earth is the enemy.

A machine gunner in our unit stepped up onto a rice paddy dike on a bounding-type mine and froze when he heard the click. An engineer disarmed the mine underneath his foot, and Reader's Digest wrote up his story. But his story of survival was one in a million.

Also, there is no enemy to fire back at when a mine explodes. The nearest villagers might suffer the infantrymen's wrath.

When we send troops into Bosnia and say they will be exposed to land mines, we should know what they are getting into.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TO LINCOLN GORE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Lincoln Gore on the occasion of his 80th birthday. His has been a great example of the American life, one centered on the premises of family, community, and service to country. It is with great respect that I wish him happy birthday.

"Linc" has been a resident of West Frankfort, IL, since his birth on February 12, 1916. The 7th of 12 children, Mr. Gore has long known the pleasures of a large family. He married Nellie Little and began his own family in 1940 with the first of his three children. Mr. Gore currently has nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren, with the expectation of two new additions in the near future. Linc's love of family was perhaps best evidenced when he risked his life in an explosion at the Orient No. 8 Mine. Mr. Gore reentered the mine to help save his brother-in-law who was still trapped inside.

As much as he has received from his family, Mr. Gore has returned even more to West Frankfort and the United States of America. Currently retired from the State of Illinois and the city of West Frankfort, Linc, a long-time Democrat, has served as a precinct committeeman for the last 20 years. He is also a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and the West Frankfort Moose Lodge. And when his country needed him, he answered the call and served with the Army in Europe during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, we all can learn a great deal from the example of Mr. Gore. His has been a life of love, duty, and honor. I wish him many more years of happiness as he celebrates his birthday.

TRIBUTE TO ROSALIE MARIE DEBEAUSSAERT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Rosalie Marie DeBeaussiaert. Rose, as she is known to her friends, was honored this past week by her colleagues at a retirement dinner which they

hosted in honor of her many years of service. Rose retired this past October from the Utica community schools.

Rose is the kind of person who believes in family and taking an active role in one's community. She has lived her entire life fulfilling these responsibilities. She is the mother of five, grandmother to six, and was the devoted wife to the late Henry DeBeaussiaert. The inherent need to sacrifice for the good of the family was something Rose learned early in life since she was 1 of 14 children. Hard work, commitment, and taking responsibility for one's self and others were values her parents instilled which she successfully passed on to her own children. In fact, it is because of these values that I became acquainted with Rose through her son Ken. Ken is a respected Michigan State senator who has worked with me since before my first election to Congress.

After her children were grown, Rose began taking care of other people's children when she started working for the Utica community schools. She worked at almost every school in the district helping prepare meals for the many hungry students. She retired as kitchen manager from Utica High School where she had worked for many years. During her working days she also helped care for her fellow workers by serving as a local steward in her union.

Through all these years she has also remained committed to her faith. As a member of the Altar Society at St. Isidore Parish she has held various offices over many years.

While I know she will be missed by her colleagues, their loss is her family's gain. I am sure Rose is excited to be spending more time with family and friends. Rose is a role model to all who know her and she deserves all the best in retirement. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering heartfelt congratulations and a sincere thank you for a job well done.

SALUTE TO REV. SAMUEL AMOS BRACKEEN OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 1996

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Rev. Samuel Brackeen, founder and pastor of the Philippian Baptist Church to congratulate him on his many years of service to the Philadelphia community.

Reverend Brackeen, educated at Paul Quinn College, Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, and Vanderbilt University, began his tenure with the Philippian Baptist Church over 30 years ago. He is founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the Baptist Global Mission Bureau. Reverend Brackeen has dedicated his life to improving the plight of his people in many areas.

Reverend Brackeen has also played a vital role in many programs in the Philadelphia community as the vice president of the Pittsburgh N.A.A.C.P. branch, chairman of the civil rights committee and chairman of the Centre Avenue Y.M.C.A. Reverend Brackeen has been active in religious and community projects, holding memberships in various organizations for community betterment. He has served as the Philadelphia community finance

chairman and board member of the Columbia Y.M.C.A., executive director of the Helping Hand Committee Inc. and board member of Nannie Helen Burroughs School. In Philadelphia, he has been active in the fight against police brutality, The 400 Ministers' Campaign, the fight for job opportunities, and the bettering of educational opportunities for African-Americans. Currently, Reverend Brackeen is an incorporator and director of the United Bank of Philadelphia, the only black commercial bank in Pennsylvania.

I hope my colleagues will join me today in congratulating the Reverend Samuel Brackeen for his many years of service with the Philippian Baptist Church and the Philadelphia community. I wish the Reverend Samuel Brackeen and the Philippian Baptist Church the very best as they continue their service to the Baptist community in Philadelphia.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER JAMES B. WILLIAMS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a courageous public citizen, Mr. James B. Williams, a firefighter who faithfully served the community of Far Rockaway for 12 years until he lost his life on January 5, 1996, in a raging fire. Among his colleagues, Mr. Williams was admired and respected as one of the best firefighters in New York. Many of his comrades from Ladder Company 121 worked with him side by side for many years, often placing their trust in Mr. Williams to save their own lives when caught in danger. Most importantly, the people of Far Rockaway remember him best as a man who fearlessly devoted his life to saving the lives of many Queens residents. His remarkable record of service to the Rockaways has been duly recognized as he received several accolades for his bravery. These honors include two citations of merit in 1991 from the New York Fire Department's Holy Name Society for saving the life of a 43-year-old man, and for rescuing two young children trapped in a smoke-filled apartment building.

During that windy and blustery night of January 5, Mr. Williams made the extra effort to search for any victims left behind in a burning apartment building. During this act of valor, Mr. Williams lost his life. Capt. John T. Rokee and Brian Gallagher, who accompanied Mr. Williams into the blaze, described it as a blowtorch of flames, making the mission especially treacherous. Yet James Williams charged on.

Mr. Williams, killed in the line of duty at the age of 38, will be remembered as an American hero who made an indelible impression on those who witnessed his indomitable will to help others. The legacy of Mr. Williams' bravery on that chilly night will certainly live on among his family, friends, and neighbors. I offer my condolences to his wife and children as they proudly revere the memory of their courageous father and husband. He was a true leader who served our community with the utmost distinction. I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Queens in observing a moment of silence to honor the tireless energy and courage of Mr. James Williams. He will live long in all of our hearts and minds.